

IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 18, 22 and 23 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 24 is new. The Abstract is amended.

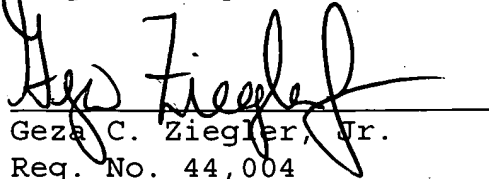
2. Claims 5-8 and 18-21 are rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 5 and 18 are rewritten in independent form to recite the language of the claim from which each depends. Thus, as noted by the Examiner, claims 5-8 and 18-21 should be allowable.

3. Claim 11 has been amended to include features similar to those recited in claim 16 and should accordingly now also be in a condition for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for \$110 for a one-month extension of time as well as any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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10 September 2004
Date

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